

OXC 3453

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28 May 62

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT: Trip Report

1. During the week of 21 May - 26 May 62, the undersigned visited the following facilities:

- a. Laughlin AFB, Del Rio, Texas
- b. England AFB, Alexandria, La.
- c. Edwards AFB, Calif.
- d. NAF, El Centro, Calif.

Time spent at Laughlin and England AFB's was concerned with observations and participation in staging operations of a headquarters' directed Idealist mission.

2. The purpose of the Edwards AFB visit was to observe existing facilities for crew management, and to discuss possibilities for construction of facilities to enhance more appropriate and more adequate crew control procedures. Recommendations as a result of these meetings will be the subject of a subsequent memo.

3. During the time at El Centro, only one live jump was observed. This was accomplished on Wednesday, 23 May 62. The jump was made from 25,000 feet by  USAF, from the B-66 drop plane used in previous dummy drops. According to reports from  and observations of the undersigned, all systems of the parachute assembly functioned with as near perfection as could be expected. Opening force of the first stage stabilization chute — the 78 inch, first ribbon, hemispherical — was acceptable, and considered well within comfortable, tolerable limits. Revolutions per minute, and rate of descent were within safe ranges. The drogue chute opened at 25,000 feet. A fall to 5,800 feet was made on the drogue in 68 seconds. Only 6-8 turns were recorded. The main chute was opened at 5,800 feet.

4. The seat kit pan functioned perfectly, dropping away on the 25 foot lanyard, as anticipated. There was no structural damage to the pack on this jump; however, because of previous splitting of kits on impact with the ground, a slight revision has been proposed. This involves a hinging of the entire anterior or forward section of the pan instead of the present hinging of the two outer surfaces, alone. This revision will involve no basic change in structural design.

5. Jumps scheduled on Thursday, 24 May, and Friday, 25 May, were cancelled because of high winds. According to  15-16 more live jumps remain to be done as of this date.

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